



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Farm and Foreign
Agricultural
Services

Farm Service
Agency

Kansas City
Commodity Office
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APPROVAL OF NEW PACKAGING FOR USE IN COMMODITY PROCUREMENTS

Commodity suppliers or package manufacturers interested in seeking U. S. Government approval of **new** packaging for use in commodity procurements shall follow the procedures outlined below. These procedures apply to containers and packaging materials intended for use under international food assistance programs administered by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), as well as USDA's domestic food distribution and Milk Price Support programs.

Note: These procedures do not apply when the Commodity Requirements document allows for commercial packaging.

To request approval of a new container or packaging material, commodity suppliers or package manufacturers shall submit a written request to the Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations (DACO), USDA, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Washington, D.C., at the address below. The request must include construction specifications and supporting evidence of performance such as:

- Laboratory test data
- Field testing reports
- History of successful use in commercial channels
- Environmental impact analysis.

The supporting evidence must demonstrate that the proposed container or packaging material will perform as well as the container(s) or packaging material(s) currently specified and authorized for use.

Any proposed container or packaging material must have an environmental impact equal to or less than the container(s) or packaging material(s) currently specified and authorized for use.

DACO will evaluate the total life cycle of the proposed container or packaging material and will consider the environmental impact of each stage from manufacture, through its use, to waste management (reuse, recycle, or disposal).

In response to written requests, DACO will do one or more of the following:

- Request samples of the proposed container or packaging material be sent for evaluation to a testing laboratory designated by the Government.
- Require test shipments of filled containers.
- Provide written denial of the proposed container or packaging material.
- Adopt use of the new container or packaging material based on information submitted, environmental impact evaluation, and/or completion of successful testing.

If approved, DACO will respond in writing and advise when specifications for the newly approved container or packaging material will be added to the applicable purchase contract language so it may be used in Government-sponsored programs. All approvals must be supported by the applicable program agency (i.e., USAID, Foreign Agricultural Service, or Food and Nutrition Service).

No container or packaging material may be used until it is specified in the applicable Commodity Requirements document.

Inquiries concerning new packaging should be directed to:

USDA/FSA/DACO/PPAD
Room 5755 South Building, Stop 0551
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-0551
ATTN: Packaging

Questions should be directed to the Commodity Procurement and Policy Analysis Division at 202-720-5074.